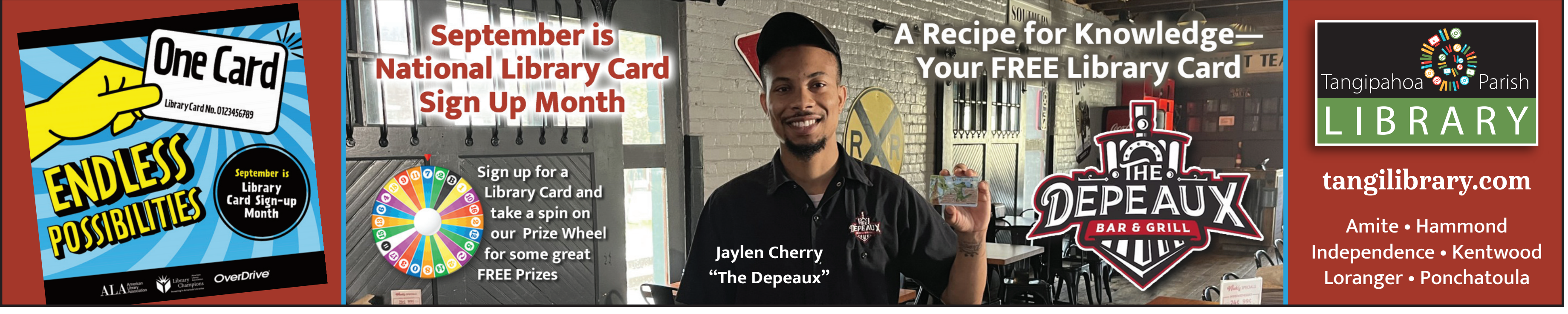
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# The Tangi Times

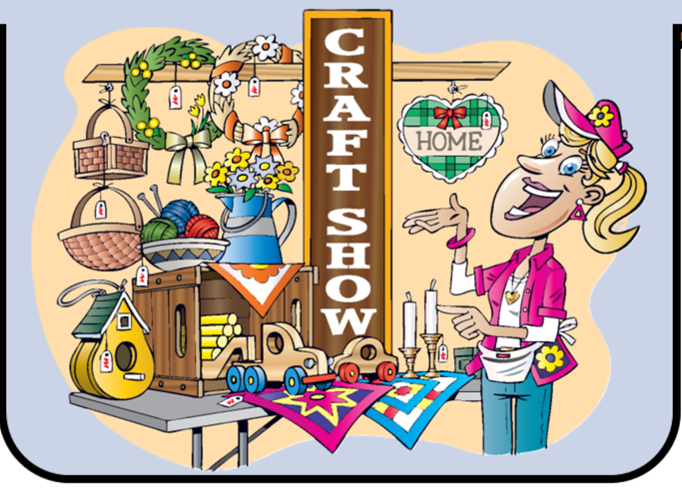
The Newspaper of Tangipahoa, St. Helena, and Eastern Livingston Parishes

MONDAY MOJO EDITION

44th Year, No. 98 Monday, September 29, 2025 ONE DOLLAR

## Escaping the Side Hustle Spiral

By STEFANIE BROOKE • Tangi Times Community Journalist


CRAFT SHOW
HOME

Somewhere along the way, hobbies started coming with invoices. Knit a scarf? You should open an Etsy shop. Bake a cake? Time to launch a cottage bakery. Doodle a cat wearing sunglasses? Congratulations, you're now expected to sell it on T-shirts.

It seems every pastime has been hijacked by the hustle. But here's the thing: not every hobby needs to make money. In fact, sometimes the most valuable hobbies are the ones that never earn a dime.

A hobby, by definition, is supposed to be something that you do for fun. It's the thing you do after work, not another version of work.

When you paint a wobbly little watercolor flower or spend an afternoon learning the ukulele, the point isn't profit — it's joy. It's the small thrill of creating something just because you wanted to, with no customer reviews looming over your head.

When we only choose hobbies with dollar signs attached, we risk squeezing out the very pleasure they were meant to bring. Instead of letting pottery be a meditative mess of clay and glaze, it becomes a productivity checklist: Is this mug Instagram-worthy? Will people buy it?

Before you know it, your relaxing pastime has been replaced by deadlines, branding strategies, and the creeping sense you should be doing more.

There's something downright magical about keeping a hobby just for yourself. It's like having a secret garden that doesn't need to be landscaped for visitors.

Maybe you write poetry that will never leave the pages of your notebook, or you dance in your kitchen to songs only your dog can hear. Maybe you collect rocks, fold paper airplanes, or learn magic tricks with the promise that no one but your cat will ever see them. These little acts, free of outside judgment, can restore a sense of playfulness we often lose in adulthood.

Research even backs this up: people who engage in hobbies simply for enjoyment report lower stress levels and greater overall well-being. It turns out your brain doesn't care if your cross-stitch sampler earns royalties — it just wants to relax.

Of course, monetizing a hobby isn't evil. Sometimes it makes sense, and sometimes it brings joy in its own way.

**See HUSTLE on Page 4**

## Leave a Poem, Find a Smile

By STEFANIE BROOKE • Tangi Times Community Journalist

Picture this: you're going about your ordinary Wednesday, maybe walking the dog, running errands, or grabbing a cup of coffee, when suddenly — there it is. A snippet of verse scrawled in bright chalk across the pavement. A folded slip of paper with a few dreamy lines tucked between the pages of a library book. A poem where you least expected it.

That delightful sense of surprise is exactly what Random Acts of Poetry Day is all about, celebrated every year on the first Wednesday of October.

The beauty of Random Acts of Poetry Day is that it belongs to everyone, not just people who carry notebooks or study meter and rhyme. It's about the delight in unexpected language, the joy of words when they pop up where you least expect them, and the chance to pause your daily routine and see — or hear — something lyrical.

THE
RAIN
IN
SPAIN
STAYS
MAINLY
ON THE
PLAIN

Whether you're a seasoned poet or someone who thinks every poem must rhyme with "time," this is your invitation to add a little wonder.

Although the exact origin of Random Acts of Poetry Day is fuzzy (no definitive founder or birthplace), it has been widely observed in the US since about 2014-2015 and firmly marked on calendars by poetry lovers, schools, libraries, cafés, and folks who like to leave sticky notes of verse.

What might Random Acts of Poetry Day look like in practice?

Chalk poems on sidewalks, yes. Short verses stapled or taped to public bulletin boards. Poetic lines scribbled on napkins, left in a café or rest stop. Poems secretly slipped into books at public libraries.

Even reading a poem aloud to a friend or posting a favorite stanza with a photo on social media qualifies. The point is surprise and sharing. In 2025, Random Acts of Poetry Day falls on Wednesday, Oct. 1.

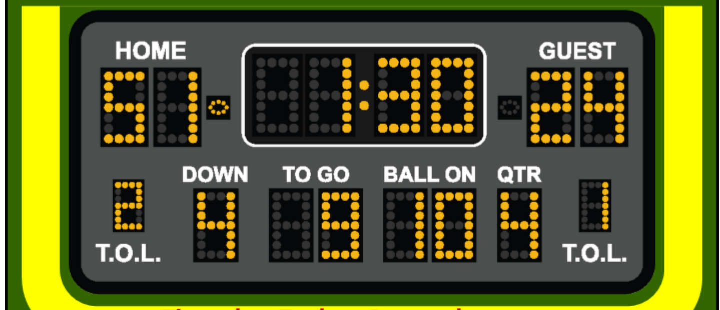
It's a small day but rife with possibility: a chance to notice, to jolt the ordinary, to let words breathe in unplanned places. It turns sidewalks into stages, town squares into open mic nights without microphones, hearts into libraries.

Why poetry? Because poetry slows us down. Because in just a few lines it can unsettle habit, remind us of what matters, and connect strangers.

Even a haiku chalked on blacktop can linger in someone's mind long after the sidewalk washes away in rain. Because a poem in the margin of a borrowed book might feel like a friend nudging you, whispering, "look up, look around."

This year, carry a few lines in your pocket and just leave them behind someplace unexpected. They'll find a good home.

## Prep Football Scores


HOME
GUEST
51
1:30
24
DOWN
TO GO
BALL ON
QTR
T.O.L.
2
4
9
10
4
1
T.O.L.

*Thursday-Friday, September 25-26*

| | |
|---|---|
| Hammond (3-1) | 49 |
| L.W. Higgins (0-4) | 0 |
| Independence (1-3) | 26 |
| Albany (1-3) | 16 |
| Sumner (4-0) | 35 |
| Livonia (2-2) | 0 |
| Amite (2-2) | 16 |
| St. Helena (1-3) | 14 |
| Kentwood (2-2) | 22 |
| Loranger (2-2) | 21 |
| St. James (3-1) | 54 |
| Ponchatoula (0-4) | 0 |
| Riverside (3-1) | 41 |
| St. Thomas (0-4) | 0 |
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## What's inside this issue?

Back in My Day

Our Wild, Wild World

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and much more!

One Dollar

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Interviewer: So, tell me, why do you want this job?

Me: I've always been passionate about not starving to death.

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Tonya Aiken

## PALINDROME *du jour*

**No devil lived on**

*A palindrome is a word, phrase, or sentence that reads the same backward as it does forward. If you have a favorite palindrome, send it to publisher@tangitimes.com.*

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## Back in My Day

By
**Burl "Two-Toes" Jenkins**

Back in my day, grocery shopping was a full-contact sport. You didn't stroll down aisles sipping a fancy latte like folks do now. No sir, you fought for your produce like a pioneer. If there was one onion left in the bin, you wrestled Gladys from down the street for it, and may the best homemaker win.

Nowadays people have "curbside pickup" where you just click a button, and some poor teenager delivers your food to your car. Back in my day, the only curbside pickup was when the dog snatched your pork chops out of the grocery bag before you even made it in the house.

Don't get me started on those self-checkout machines. You gotta be a NASA scientist just to scan a can of beans without setting off the blinking light of shame.

Back in my day, a cashier rang up your groceries, gossiped about your neighbor, and occasionally smuggled you an extra paper bag so you could use it to cover your schoolbooks. Now, the machine yells at you because it "doesn't recognize the bag in the bagging area."

Well maybe the bag doesn't recognize YOU either, Sharon the Robot.

And these days, the milk aisle looks like a chemistry experiment. Almond milk, oat milk, soy milk — back in my day, milk came from a cow, and the closest thing to almond milk was when you accidentally dropped a nut in your glass. If you asked for oat milk in the 1960s, someone would've handed you a horse.

Produce has gone fancy too. Folks pay three dollars for avocados and act like they're adopting a rare gemstone.

Back in my day, we didn't have avocados. We had iceberg lettuce, and we liked it. It was crisp, tasteless, and about as nutritious as a damp napkin — but by golly, it was salad.

And don't get me started on organic. Every tomato I ever ate came straight out of the dirt, sometimes with a worm still attached. If it had a bug, we just called that extra protein. Now they put a special sticker on it and charge double.

But the wildest thing? People shop online and have groceries delivered straight to their door.

Back in my day, the only thing delivered to your door was the Sears catalog, and half the time it got repurposed in the outhouse. You tell kids that now and they think you're joking. Trust me, son, nobody was joking when that catalog ran out of pages.

So sure, grocery shopping is easier these days. But if you never had to dodge a runaway watermelon in the produce aisle or haul 40 pounds of canned goods home in a wagon with one wobbly wheel, did you really live?

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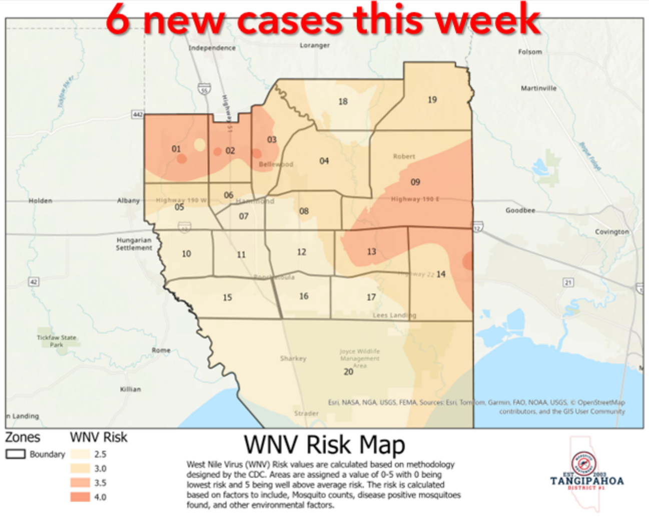
## Of the 1,757 samples tested thus far in 2025, 208 have returned positive for WNV.

**6 new cases this week**



WNV Risk Map

West Nile Virus (WNV) Risk values are calculated based on methodology designed by the CDC. Areas are assigned a value of 0-5 with 0 being lowest risk and 5 being well above average risk. The risk is calculated based on factors to include, Mosquito counts, disease positive mosquitoes found, and other environmental factors.

The Tangipahoa Mosquito Abatement District is asking all residents to perform basic defense methods to help protect against the presence of disease. Methods include wearing long sleeves, limiting time outdoors at dusk and dawn, emptying standing water, and using repellant with DEET or Picaridin (15% lasts 2-4 hrs, 20-50% for 5-8 hrs.).

There have been two reported human cases in our district this year. Visit www.tangimosquito.org for more information and advice to reduce mosquito activity.

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# Op-Ed

Submitted to The Tangi Times

## Hateful Democrats Fail to Besmirch Charlie Kirk

By JEFF CROUERE

In response to the heartbreaking assassination of Charlie Kirk, millions of Americans have been inspired to take action to save our country and return to their faith. In his short lifespan of 31 years, he had a monumental impact on our country, and it was on display during his memorial service, which attracted over 200,000 supporters and featured speakers such as President Donald Trump and Vice President J.D. Vance.

It was an incredible tribute to a life well lived, to a man who had the right priorities of God, family, and country. Unfortunately, his passing has exposed tremendous hate and unmistakable evil within the Democratic Party.

This animosity was on display in the U.S. House of Representatives in the aftermath of his assassination. A call for prayer by the U.S. Representative Lauren Boebert (R-CO) was opposed by Democrats who vocally denounced her wonderful idea.

Eventually, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution to honor Charlie Kirk with the support of 215 Republicans and 98 Democrats. It offered sympathy to his family, denounced his

(SEE OP-ED PAGE 4)

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# TANGI GUMBO

## A little bit of everything you need to know

Join Host Mike Vaughn on Friday, October 3, for a Southern and Country Gospel Fest at Good News Fellowship Church/ Mike Vaughn Ministries at 13101 Hwy 442 in W Tickfaw. Doors will open at 5:30pm. Singing will start at 6:30pm with host Pastor Mike Vaughn, and Rick Hendrickson will be special guest artist, singing at 7:30pm. This is a free concert; a love offering will be received. A concession stand will be available with many southern desserts. For more info please call 985-974-0507.

--------------------

The Tangipahoa Chamber is honored to host Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry on Thursday, October 30, at the Southeastern Louisiana University Student Union Ballroom. This special event will bring together business and community leaders from across the region to hear directly from the Governor as he highlights accomplishments and shares insight on Louisiana's path forward.

"This is an incredible opportunity for our business community to hear directly from the Governor about the top priorities of his administration and how they will shape the future of Louisiana," said Chance Enmon, Chairman of the Board of the Tangipahoa Chamber. "We look forward to an engaging and informative presentation."

Governor Landry's visit is a significant event for Tangipahoa Parish and the surrounding region. The Tangipahoa Chamber is proud to provide a platform for dialogue on the issues that matter most to businesses.

"We invite all business leaders to join us at the table," said Melissa Bordelon, President and CEO of the Tangipahoa Chamber. "This will undoubtedly be a must-attend event for those invested in the growth and prosperity of our parish and state."

Tables, individual seats, and sponsorship opportunities are now available. For more information or to secure your spot, please visit www.tangipahoachamber.org or call the Tangipahoa Chamber at 985-345-4457.

--------------------

Louisiana is stepping up the fight against littering and illegal dumping with tougher enforcement and a new statewide cleanup push, Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser announced this week ahead of the Keep Louisiana Beautiful State Conference. Backed by a new law granting State Park Rangers authority to enforce litter laws anywhere in the state, Nungesser outlined plans to revamp the 855-LA-LITTER hotline, increase citations, and launch a "Love Our Waterways" cleanup initiative in September 2026. Offenders face fines ranging from $175 for simple littering to $1,000 and potential criminal charges for gross dumping. Keep Louisiana Beautiful reports that litter costs the state more than $91 million annually and that 92% of residents see it as a serious problem, prompting training and grants to help enforcement agencies deploy surveillance cameras and crack down on violators.

--------------------

The Tangipahoa Parish Library is inviting the community to celebrate reading and autumn fun at its annual Booktoberfest, happening Saturday, October 11, from 10am to 2pm at the Hammond Branch. The free event promises complimentary books, food, and information booths, with support from Louisiana Seafood and other local partners. Library officials say the festival is designed to bring families together, promote literacy, and kick off the fall season with activities that highlight the library's resources and programs.

--------------------

Southeastern Louisiana University will host Jay Dardenne as part of the College of Education's Centennial Homecoming Speaker Series. Scheduled Oct. 16, at 6:30pm, the lecture, titled "Tales of Louisiana," will take place in Southeastern's Teacher Education Center Lecture Hall, rooms 1021 and 1022.

A prominent figure in Louisiana, Dardenne is widely recognized for his extensive career in public service. Born in Baton Rouge, he has a deep-rooted connection to the state's culture and history. Over the years, Dardenne has served in various significant roles, including as Louisiana's Lieutenant Governor and Commissioner of Administration.

During his time in office, Dardenne became known for his passion for sharing the unique stories of his home state. He has presented on Louisiana's history, culture, and distinctive qualities, often transforming his popular video series "Why Louisiana Ain't Mississippi…or Any Place Else!" into live, interactive presentations.

Dardenne's talks are a blend of history and entertainment, designed to give audiences fresh insights into what makes Louisiana so special and to reaffirm a collective sense of pride in the state's heritage. A lifelong resident with a profound appreciation for Louisiana, he is a natural storyteller who brings its rich and captivating history to life.

Although the lecture is free, registration is required and is available via google form at https://forms.gle/sEUhARCn1hwSbRty9. For more information, contact the College of Education at 549-2217 or collegeofeducation@southeastern.edu.

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# Update on Accident in Ponchatoula

### Tangi Times Report

In Friday's Weekend Warrior edition, we reported about a serious vehicle crash in Ponchatoula that sent eight people to the hospital, some in critical condition. We have since received an update from Ponchatoula Chief of Police Bry Layrisson regarding the progress of some of the injured individuals, as well as a statement regarding the criminal charges against Anthony P. Conley, the driver of the vehicle that caused the devastating crash:

From Ponchatoula Chief of Police Bry Layrisson

I spoke with Donna Martinez (Mother and Grandmother), today and she informed me that her daughter, Denyelle, and three grandchildren are "a bit beaten and broken, but alive." The children may be released to return home on Monday. Denyelle and her fiancé, Malachi, are getting much better. Donna Martinez has a meal train link set up on her Facebook page and will need help with childcare for her grandchildren while she is at work.

Juan Reyes has had multiple surgeries and is recovering, his wife Hendi Puerto, remains in critical condition in ICU and is day-to-day, and their son Justin Puerto has been released.

Pending charges for Anthony P. Conley

1- 1 Count of Felony Hit and Run (Maximum 10 Years at Hard Labor)

2- 1 Count of Felony Obstruction of Justice (Maximum 20 Years at Hard Labor)

3- 8 Counts of Misdemeanor Negligent Injuring

4- 1 Count of Misdemeanor Driving with a Suspended License

Conley remains in the Tangipahoa Parish Jail with a $210,500 bond.

Potential upgraded charges

1- 1 Count of Negligent Homicide (Maximum 10 Years at Hard Labor)

2- 1 Count of Vehicular Homicide (Maximum 30 Years at Hard Labor)

Based on the totality of the circumstances, with numerous victims suffering from life-threatening injuries, Conley's extreme negligence and total disregard for the victims' lives, and his extensive criminal history, the Ponchatoula Police Department will ask the District Attorney's Office to request that Conley's sentences be served consecutively.

For the full details of the accident and response, please see the September 26, 2025, issue of the Tangi Times Weekend Warrior.

# Fanfare Highlights

## From Southeastern

A DOCUMENTARY PREMIERE, DANCE, ART AND LECTURES HIGHLIGHT FANFARE'S UPCOMING WEEK

A documentary film premiere, dance concert, a day of Latino culture, lectures, music, and art are the highlights scheduled during the upcoming week of the 40th season of Fanfare, Southeastern Louisiana University's annual fall festival of the arts, humanities and social sciences.

First up is a special dance concert by Southeastern's Department of Music and Performing Arts' dance company, Dance Performance Project titled "LA STRONG: 14 Victims." Scheduled Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, at 7pm, in Pottle Auditorium, the concert is approximately one hour.

Director of Dance and Dance Performance Project Artistic Director Keith "Skip" Costa said the concert is dedicated to the lives of the 14 victims who were innocently killed on New Year's Day in New Orleans and the strength of our state to stand together as explored through dance, video projections, and music for the one-hour performance.

Tickets to the concert (cash only) are $10 for students, seniors, children, and military, and $15 general admission and will be available one hour prior to the performance in the Pottle Auditorium lobby.

Also on Oct. 1 is a Fanfare Day of Latino Culture, a College of Arts, Humanities and Sciences collaboration. Co-sponsored by the Departments of Communication, English and World Languages, and History and Political Science, the day of free lectures is scheduled in the Student Union Theatre from 9:30am until 3pm.

On Oct. 2, at 5pm, the department of Visual Art + Design will host an opening reception for the 2025 Visual Art + Design Exhibition "To Make and Be Received: Analyzing the Artistic Process." Scheduled in the Contemporary Art Gallery on Southeastern's campus, the opening reception is free. The exhibition will remain open to the public during gallery hours until Nov. 5.

The exhibit includes seven artists from a variety of disciplines, including installation, painting, sculpture, ceramics, and photography: Eric Whitaker, Brooke Cassady, Diane Appaix-Castro, Ben Hamburger, Keir Johnston, Jessica Lynne Brown, and Danielle Fauth.

Also scheduled Oct. 2 is a music concert presented by the Department of Music and Performing Arts titled "Mosaic Concert: A Tapestry of Sound and Movement." Scheduled at 7:30pm, the concert will take place in Southeastern's Columbia Theatre for the Performing Arts in downtown Hammond.

The concert is a special evening of live performances from various university ensembles, including the Wind Symphony, Saxophone Ensemble, Bella Voce, Gospel Choir, dance ensembles, and opera scenes. Students from Southeastern Theatre will serve as the evening's MCs.

Tickets are $20 adults, $15 non-Southeastern students, SLU faculty and staff, and Southeastern students are admitted free with university ID.

Closing out the week is the world premiere of "Southeastern 100," a documentary on the university's first 100 years. Scheduled Oct. 3, at 7pm, at Columbia Theatre, the documentary explores the profound impact the university has had on the people, culture and economy of the region. The film presents stories from every aspect of campus, from the current students to some of the oldest alumni, as it looks back on a century of impact and toward a future of promise.

Entry to the premiere is free; however, an RSVP is required, and seating is limited on a first come, first served basis. Theatre doors open at 6:30pm To RSVP, visit https://www.southeastern.edu/events.

Fanfare events are free, unless otherwise noted. For more information, contact the Columbia/ Fanfare office at 985-549-2999.

# HUSTLE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

But it's worth protecting a corner of your life that doesn't come with receipts. Call it your personal "no-sell zone," where you're allowed to make bad art, burn the soufflé, or build a birdhouse that looks more like abstract sculpture than home décor.

So the next time someone asks, "Have you thought about selling those?" feel free to smile and say, "Nope. This one's just for me."

Because the best kind of hobby might be the one that costs you time, earns you nothing, and gives you back everything.

# OP-ED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

assassination and honored Kirk as a "courageous American patriot" who "lived out his faith with conviction, courage, and compassion."

Sadly, 60 Democrats either voted "present" or did not vote for the resolution. Even worse, 58 Democrats voted against this worthwhile resolution, including U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY).

In a disgusting speech to her colleagues, she said Kirk's "rhetoric and beliefs were ignorant, uneducated and sought to disenfranchise millions of Americans." Of course, Ocasio-Cortez lied about Charlie Kirk. He was not a racist, and, as the resolution noted, he worked "tirelessly to promote unity."

This is why Kirk offered progressives an opportunity to debate him on college campuses throughout the country. He treated all of them with respect and dignity, giving them the biggest platform he could offer.

His proposal of debate and wholesome discussion was met by violence and a bullet from a deranged leftist. It ended his life, but not his life's work, which will now soar to new heights and have even greater influence.

Currently, his organization, Turning Point USA, has 3,500 high school and college chapters, but, as of September 18, 2025, Turning Point had received 62,000 requests for new chapters.

In the aftermath of his assassination, Turning Point USA will become an even more powerful organization. This is distressing to the hateful Democrats, who will continue to demonize Charlie Kirk.

For example, U.S. Representative Jasmine Crockett (D-TX) said she voted against the Kirk resolution because he was a racist. She compared the resolution to the Confederacy. In a CNN interview, she said, "Just like we made sure those Confederate relics were taken down…the idea of a new age relic being propped up is something I could not subscribe to."

Crockett's comments were both defamatory and reprehensible. If Crockett cared about the truth she could have asked CNN analyst Van Jones, a diehard Democrat, who was feuding with Charlie Kirk in the days before his assassination.

On CNN, Jones revealed that he received a text from Kirk one day before his murder. In the text, Kirk offered him "a respectful conversation about crime and race" on his program. Kirk also promised that he "would be a gentleman as I know you would be as well…We can disagree about the issues agreeably."

Jones remarked, that on "The last day of his life, he was reaching out to have not more censorship, (but) more conversation, more dialogue, with somebody who, honestly, was one of his adversaries, me."

Fortunately, Jones came to understand the greatness of Charlie Kirk. He should educate the ignorant U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar (D-MN), who has been making vile statements about Charlie Kirk ever since his assassination.

Omar called Kirk "hateful," and shared a video that "Kirk was Dr. Frankenstein, and his monster shot him through the neck." Omar declared that Kirk's legacy should be relegated to "the dustbin of history," and wished the nation would "hopefully move on and forget the hate that he spewed every single day."

Well, sorry to disappoint you, Representative Omar, but his legacy will continue to expand in the years ahead. As Stephen Miller, Deputy Chief of Staff, said in his comments at Charlie Kirk's memorial, his enemies "have no idea the dragon you have unleashed."

As Miller said, the left has "nothing to offer but bitterness." He encouraged those who will continue his legacy to be "worthy" of his "sacrifice" and to defeat the "forces of darkness and evil."

Ultimately, the effort to silence Charlie Kirk and demonize his legacy will fail miserably. As Vice President J.D. Vance noted, the memorial for Charlie Kirk was not a "funeral, but a celebration and a revival."

Kirk's impact on our country will extend beyond politics into religion and culture. It will lead to not only more Republicans, but more Christians, more traditional families, and more love of the United States of America. Well done, Charlie Kirk.

Jeff Crouere is a native New Orleanian and his award-winning program, "Ringside Politics," airs Saturdays from Noon until 1 p.m. CT nationally on Real America's Voice TV Network & AmericasVoice. News and weekdays from 7-9 a.m. & 6-7 p.m. CT on WGSO 990-AM & Wgso.com. He is a political columnist, the author of America's Last Chance, and provides regular commentaries on the Jeff Crouere YouTube channel and at Crouere.net. For more information, email him at jcrouere@gmail.com.

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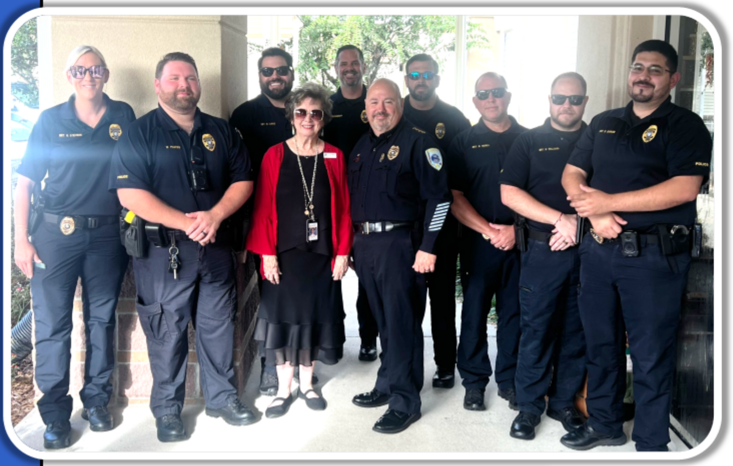
# Courtney Christian School Students Participate in See You at the Pole

### From Courtney Christian School

Courtney Christian School students participated in See You at the Pole, an annual, student-led Global Day of Prayer where students across the world gather at their school's flagpole to pray for their friends, families, schools, and communities. What began in 1990 with a small group of Texas students has grown into a worldwide movement of young people publicly uniting in prayer and faith.

At CCS, students are blessed with the privilege of freely gathering in prayer, yet they join to stand in solidarity with students who do not share that same freedom. Our students were intentional not to take this opportunity for granted, lifting prayers for revival in our community and nation, for boldness among students in public schools to proclaim Jesus as Lord, for protection over community helpers, and for wisdom and guidance for local and national leaders.

We were honored to be joined by Hammond Police Chief Edwin Bergeron and members of the Hammond Police Department. Chief Bergeron encouraged CCS students to never be ashamed to publicly proclaim their faith and to stand firm in what Jesus Christ accomplished for them on the cross.



*Pictured at left is Head of School Mrs. Sue Courtney (in red) with representatives of HPD (left to right): Juvenile Detective Samantha Stevens, School Security Officer Wade Phares, Detective Corey Morse, Lieutenant Thomas Mushinskey, Chief Edwin Bergeron, Sergeant Ronnie Domiano, Detective Brandon Small, Detective Dustin Williams, and Detective Rolondo Duran.*

*At left, 8th Grade Student Sawyer Tillman leads a prayer for Public School Students across the nation.*

*Below, 8th Grade Student Rayna Nelson leads a prayer for CCS Staff members and Students.*

*Above, Courtney Christian High School students, faculty, and choir members were joined by representatives from the Hammond Police Department in their Day of Prayer at the flagpole.*

Veterans
Celebration
Car Show

## Saturday, November 1, 2025

We are thrilled to announce the first-ever Tangipahoa Parish Veterans Celebration Car Show in Ponchatoula's Memorial Park.

This special event is more than just a showcase of classic and custom cars – it's a heartfelt tribute to our veterans and a vibrant addition to a community celebration honoring their service.

***Applications are now open!***

***If you've got a ride worth showing off, we want to see it!***

- Participants will have early access to the staging area before the influx of attendees *(parade starts at 9:00am)*.
- All accepted car show participants will have the option to roll at the front of the Ponchatoula Celebrates Veterans parade that precedes the car show. This is a high-visibility honor and a unique way to be a part of the festivities!

***It's free to join!***

***Come celebrate with a day of festivities as we honor our veterans! Call Brandon with any questions at 985-981-1372 or scan the code at the right to register now.***

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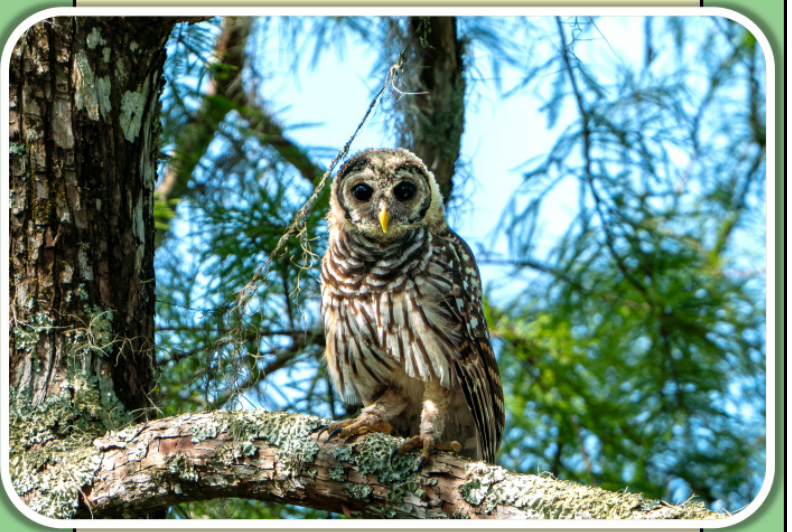

This photograph of a mysterious Barred Owl was taken by Paul V. Perez in the swamps of the Tchefuncte River in July 2025. The image is a compelling depiction of the serenity and natural beauty of our home in southern Louisiana.

## #BALLIN' 4 OPTIONS GAME DAY HIGHLIGHTS

### ORANGE ROCKETS VS. PURPLE KNIGHTS

#32
ORANGE ROCKETS
JAIME ZERINGUE

*2025 Orange Rockets MVP Jaime Zeringue!*

#18
PURPLE KNIGHTS
FRANK DELGADO

*2025 Purple Knights MVP Frank Delgado!*

*OPTIONS held the 8th Annual Ballin' 4 OPTIONS Charity Basketball Game presented by Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust on Saturday, September 20th. OPTIONS mission is to help people with disabilities live and work in the community. The goals and proceeds of this event help promote healthier lifestyles, build self-esteem, and increase community involvement for men and women with disabilities. Thank you to the coaches, volunteers, players, cheerleaders, mascots, sponsors, and the community members who made Ballin' 4 OPTIONS possible. We are incredibly grateful for your support!*

*Left: The Orange Rockets and the Purple Knights brought amazing energy and team spirit! In a thrilling matchup, the Orange Rockets narrowly defended their Ballin' 4 OPTIONS Championship title, clinching a 59–58 win. Both teams delivered an outstanding performance!*

*Below: The winner of the 2025 Chuck Olson Spirit Award is Derriondria Stuart! Pictured above left to right is Alexis Sterling, Community Outreach Coordinator, Derriondria Stuart, Lauri Boudreau, Chuck's Sister and OPTIONS Advocate, Casey Rudolph, Development Director, and Carrie Mercke, CEO.*

KIM BUCKNER
BARBARA SULLIVAN

*Left: The 2025 Cheerleading Spirit Award was presented to Kim Buckner & Barbara Ann Sullivan!*

# You're Invited to Southeastern Louisiana University's Centennial Military Banquet

Tuesday, November 11th, 2025
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# Tangipahoa Chamber Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: Johnice K. Gordon Academy

Tangipahoa Chamber photo

Johnice K. Gordon Academy recently celebrated an official ribbon cutting with the Tangipahoa Chamber. Located at 16031 Deblin Square (Suite B) in Hammond, Johnice K. Gordon Academy is a private preschool offering a personalized approach to early education with Social Emotional Learning guided by a licensed clinical social worker, helping children build strong academic, social, and emotional skills.

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## FUN FACT

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## Safety Tip of the Day

### SHOPPING SAFETY TIPS

An unpopular opinon - leave the shopping cart when you have children with you. Having your kids with you makes you feel more vulnerable, so do not even worry about returning the shopping cart.
Worry about getting home safely with your children.
To make up for leaving your cart - your next visit when you alone or with another adult and you see a stray shopping cart in the parking lot, grab it and bring it inside.

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# Horoscopes

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## 1st week of October

**ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20**
Your energy is off the charts this week, Aries. This is the perfect time to start a new fitness regimen or tackle projects that you've been putting off for a while.

**TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21**
Focus on your finances this week, Taurus. A new opportunity to increase your income or make an investment comes your way. Your practical nature will facilitate sound decision-making.

**GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21**
Your communication skills are very powerful right now, Gemini. Whether it is a difficult conversation or a creative collaboration, you will find the right words to express yourself.

**CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22**
Take some time for self-care this week, Cancer. Your intuition is strong and your inner voice will lead you to what will ultimately bring security and comfort.

**LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23**
Leo, you are shining brightly right now. This is your time to be seen and celebrated. Step into the spotlight at work or in your social circle. Your confidence will be contagious.

**VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22**
Productivity and organization are the name of the game this week, Virgo. You will feel a sense of satisfaction from checking off tasks and bringing order to your surroundings.

**LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23**
Your natural charm and diplomatic skills make you a sought-after companion, Libra. This means your social life may be buzzing right now with plenty of people staying close.

**SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22**
You are in a powerful position to achieve your professional goals, Scorpio. A new project or recognition at work might be on the horizon. Stay focused.

**SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21**
Adventure is calling you, Sagittarius. Whether it is travel plans, a new work project or trying a new restaurant, you will be seeking novel experiences this week.

**CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20**
Take some time for deep reflection, Capricorn. You can find clarity by looking inward and understanding what drives you. Expect some good news by midweek.

**AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18**
Your relationships are a great source of joy this week, Aquarius. You may connect with others who share your unique vision and ideas. Don't be afraid to be yourself.

**PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20**
Creativity is flowing right now, Pisces. Devote some time to a passion project, whether it is art, music or writing. It is alright to daydream a little while as well.

# Attention Tangipahoa Parish District 10 Residents

Join District 10 Councilwoman Strader Cieutat for a

## Town Hall Meeting

to learn about updates in District 10

**Wednesday**
**October 1**
**6:00-7:00pm**

**Fire Station #2**
**610 E. Pine St.**
**Ponchatoula**

**985-355-0588**
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Strader Dufreche Cieutat - Tangipahoa Parish Council

Our Wild, Wild World
By Kasia Perkowska

# The Weasel

## Don't Let Their Cuteness Fool You

I have to be honest: I always believed weasels were made up, only appearing in cartoons or movies, and I had no idea they were actual creatures, kind of like unicorns.

I didn't know weasels existed until I was a few years into my bird rescue and joined online chicken groups. I saw posts of people predator-proofing coops and enclosures to protect their animals yet trying to figure out what predator could have gained access to their pens.

It was only when someone posted video footage from their night vision camera of a weasel that I finally realized they're real. When it was time to build my own chicken coop, I wanted it to be impenetrable, like Fort Knox. After checking online to see what predatory wildlife was native to our area, I was surprised to see the Long-Tailed Weasel on the list.

Seeing a photo of a weasel, it's easy to mistake them for a ferret, as they are very similar in appearance. One way to easily tell them apart is by their coloring and size. Weasels are orange-brown with a white-cream underbelly and a uniformly brown tail, whereas even though ferrets may vary in color, they all have a distinguishable dark mask across their eyes, similar to that of a raccoon.

Ferrets are also larger than weasels, ranging from 8 to 20 inches long nose to tail, and weasels usually only reach 10 to 12 inches.

For such a tiny little critter, the weasel is despised by chicken and duck owners everywhere. Due to their small size, they can find access into a chicken coop through the smallest gap, leaving owners perplexed as to what's killing off their chickens. Not only are they very cunning and clever, but they're also extremely intelligent animals. Their tenacity is amazing!

They're also known for stealing eggs. While some homeowners may appreciate having weasels living on their property, as they are excellent for rodent control, if they gain access to poultry houses or those of other small animals or pets, they can wipe out an entire flock, including the eggs.

Weasels are opportunistic eaters. Being strictly carnivorous, their diet may consist of bird eggs; birds; small mammals like rats, mice, and rabbits; frogs; and other amphibians and crustaceans.

Their fast metabolism requires them to eat 40% of their own body weight in meat every day. Excellent hunters, they track their prey through scent and sound. Having small, long and slender bodies makes it easy for them to follow and catch prey in small burrows or hollowed out logs, and they're known for preying on animals larger than themselves.

Their cute and cuddly appearance may fool people into thinking they're docile little critters, but they are solitary animals and very aggressive when their territory is invaded. Similar to skunks, they release a foul and strong-smelling musk when afraid or when marking their territory.

A group of weasels is referred to as a "boogle," a "confusion," a "pack," or a "gang." Considering their thuggish innate behavior, at least one of these names should be appropriate.

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